

Title: BREAKING NEWS! Medicare to reject “old” CMS-1500 (12/90) forms received after June 29.

Medicare previously announced an extension in acceptance of the “old” CMS-1500 (12/90 version) form that was originally scheduled for termination by April 1, 2007. The extension was to permit time for investigation of reported printing problems with the new CMS-1500 (08/05 version) forms. It was determined that the printing issue did not prevent the forms from being read by the Optical Character Recognition software used for entry of most paper claims sent to Medicare, with very few exceptions. The exceptions involved only a couple of Medicare contractors and in those cases, the misprinted forms were taken off the market and purchasers furnished correctly printed forms. As result, there is no need for Medicare to continue to accept the “old” CMS-1500 (12/90 version) forms.

Medicare issued a notice that the new forms must be used July 1, 2007 and later. Since July 1 is a Sunday, and paper forms are mailed to Medicare contractors, that means that any paper claims forms not delivered to Medicare by Friday, June 29, the last business day in June, will be returned to submitters for resubmission on the new CMS-1500 (08/05) form. Please keep this in mind if you plan to continue using the 12/90 version of the CMS-1500 form in June.

While Medicare has announced that electronic and paper claims can continue to be submitted with either National Provider Identifiers (NPIs) only, Legacy Identifiers only (PINs, UPINs, NSC or OSCAR numbers on Medicare claims as applicable) or a combination of NPIs and Legacy Identifiers for the time being, pending announcement of the date for mandatory submission of NPIs for billing, pay-to and rendering providers, that does not mean that Medicare will continue to accept “old” CMS-1500 or UB-92 paper claim forms. The “new” forms (CMS-1500 (08/05) and the UB-04), unlike the “old” forms, have fields for reporting of both provider NPIs and Legacy IDs. The new forms can be submitted with only legacy identifiers for the time being if that is all that a claim submitter has available. As result, even if a submitter is not yet able to report NPIs for all providers on a paper claim form, a submitter would still be able to submit a claim using a new claim form. There is no need to continue to use the “old” forms. The “old” forms have been declared as obsolete by their maintainers.

Information concerning the mandatory date for reporting of NPIs on paper and electronic claims sent to Medicare will be reported on the CMS Web page as soon as that date is determined. Further information on this can be located with Medicare fee for service NPI information located elsewhere on the CMS Web page.